



Preface

The International Conference on Luminescence and Optical Spectroscopy of Condensed Matter (ICL'08) was held downtown Lyon at the Campus of “Université Lumière Lyon 2”, 18, Quai Claude Bernard, 69007 LYON, from 7–11 July 2008. It was a great privilege to welcome 650 participants.

This conference was the continuation of a series of international conferences held every 3 years at various University places around the world. Previous locations included Budapest (1966), Delaware, USA (1968), San Petersburg (1972), Tokyo (1975), Paris (1978), Berlin (1981), Madison (1984), Beijing (1987), Lisbon (1990), Storrs (1993), Prague (1996), Osaka (1999), Budapest (2002), Beijing (2005).

The ICL'08 was hosted by the “Laboratoire Physico-Chimie des Matériaux Luminescents” (LPCML) belonging to both the “Université de Lyon, Université Claude Bernard Lyon 1” (UCBL) and the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (UMR 5620 CNRS). As ICL'08 is coming back for the second time to FRANCE, after Paris in July 1978, we were very proud to organize it in LYON thanks to the International Program Committee, initially chaired by Professor W.YEN, who regrettably is not with us today.

The conference received a huge number of responses with 890 abstract submissions. We would like to warmly thank all voluntary referees from the International Program Committee, the Local Organizing Committee, the National Advisory Committee and the International Advisory Committee for their help in selecting the submissions. We appreciate the professional expertise of the reviewers who have made it possible for us to reach the highest scientific level. Finally, we have proposed 7 plenary and 26 keynote invited lectures, 100 oral communications and a limitation of 440 posters due to the limited exhibition space. The topics of ICL'08 have been inserted into the following sections: Nanocrystals, Nature of luminescent centers, Excited state dynamics, Energy transfer, Transient phenomena and sub-Picosecond spectroscopy, Exciton, polariton and collective phenomena, Optical spectroscopy in molecular and biological systems, High density excitation and non linear effect in optical process, Quantum Structured Materials, Thermo-luminescence, New materials, New synthesis, New methods and phenomena, Application in technology and related topics.

Two sessions have been devoted to two personalities who have left us recently: Professor W.YEN, former chair of the ICL International Program Committee and Dr. Françoise GAUME, founder of the laboratory LPCML at the UCBLyon1.

We have tried to stimulate a warm atmosphere and effective scientific relationships among the participants during the sessions. We were confident that a visit to the beautiful City of Lyon, so-called “Ville Lumière”, helped also to create such an atmosphere. Finally, a lot of participants have attended our social program each day at the Abbaye d'Ainay, the City Hall of Lyon, Musée des Beaux Arts, Salons du Conseil Général du Rhône and the banquet at the “Brasserie Georges”.

The conference received financial support from a number of organizations which we gratefully acknowledge : the Claude Bernard/Lyon1 University, the CNRS, the Ministry of Higher Education, the Région Rhône Alpes, the Conseil Général du Rhône, the City of Lyon,

the DGA (Ministry of Defence) and from Industries like Saint-Gobain and Philips. In addition of such supports we want to remind the ICL'08 Prize established in 1984 and awarded during the ICL conferences which is endowed by ELSEVIER, the publisher of the Journal of Luminescence.

We are indebted to the members of the International Program Committee, the Local Organizing Committee, the National Advisory Committee, the International Program Advisory Committee, Elsevier, the Journal of Luminescence and Richard Meltzer, Editor-in-Chief for their help and advice in the scientific preparation of the conference. Special thanks should be given to Solange PERREL and Fabien BAUDIER of the ICL08 secretariat at the FOCAL service of the UCBLyon1 for their hard work and dedication. They spent a precious amount of time and their help was invaluable in the preparation and organisation of this conference.

Several suggestions for locations for the ICL'11 have come up. The International Program Committee has clearly preferred for the offer by Steve Rand to host the ICL'11 meeting in Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA.

We wish you a nice ICL'11 in Ann Arbor.

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